UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/173
6 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Items 37, 114 and 155 of the
preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 5 June 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been instructed to call your attention to an ominous and disturbing series of events which occurred in the last month, in which three Palestinian individuals were brutally murdered in the Jerusalem and Ramallah areas. These murders were carried out in almost identical circumstances and manner, and a further potential murder was foiled by actions of the Israeli police.

The above-mentioned acts of terror were perpetrated against persons who had been involved in bona fide commercial real estate transactions with Israelis. Two of the murder victims were Palestinians holding Israeli identity cards, as is the individual whose abduction and murder are prevented.

Regrettably, these abductions and murders were preceded, and given justification, by the wave of public incitement by high-ranking Palestinian officials, advocating punishment of persons selling real estate to Israelis, and even going so far as to declare that such transactions are treason, and punishable by death.

Both the circumstances of the incitement and the subsequent abductions and murders, which are clearly and inherently connected, represent a flagrant abuse of all civilized norms, as well as of the principles of human rights and the

* A/52/50.

97-15272 (E) 090697 100697

/...

rule of law. They constitute an assault on the fundamental tenets of the Middle East peace process - to foster mutual trust and cooperation and to create a basis for friendly relations between Palestinians and Israel.

Israel is appalled by these murders, and urges the international community represented at the United Nations to unequivocally and publicly condemn this abhorrent phenomenon, and to call upon the Palestinian leadership to take the necessary steps to put an end to it.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 37, 114 and 155 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) David PELEG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.